

Chapter 5



Karen Terwilliger/TCI

Site visit with TTOR

Consultation and Coordination with Others

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Introduction

This chapter describes how we engaged others in developing this EA/draft CCP. In chronological order, it details our efforts to encourage the involvement of the public and conservation partners, including other Federal and State agencies, county officials, civic groups, non-government conservation, and education organizations, and user groups. It also identifies who contributed in writing the plan or significantly contributed to its contents.

It does not detail the dozens of informal discussions refuge staff have had over the last 10 years where the CCP was a topic of conversation. Those involved a wide range of audiences, including congressional representatives or their staffs, local community leaders and other residents, refuge neighbors, refuge visitors, and other interested individuals. During those discussions, the refuge manager and staff often would provide an update on our progress and encourage comments and other participation.

A 30-day period for public review follows our release of this EA/draft CCP. We encourage you to respond with your ideas about the plan. During that period, we will host open house public meetings at locations near the refuge to gather your opinions and answer your questions about our proposals. We will consider your responses carefully before we write the final CCP.

According to Service policy, we must review and update our final CCP at least once every 15 years, or sooner in response to important new information that would markedly change management direction, or our Director or Regional Director deem it necessary. If so, we will once again announce our revised planning and encourage your participation.

Planning to Protect Land and Resources

Our refuge planning began in 1999 when we initiated a CCP that would encompass all of the refuges in the Eastern Massachusetts NWR Complex. We published a Notice of Intent in the *Federal Register*, and began public scoping. By 2001, we determined that writing a plan for eight refuges was too cumbersome, and to focus on CCPs for the three northernmost refuges in the complex. The efforts for Nantucket NWR were halted at that time.

In 2008, we resumed our refuge planning for Nantucket NWR. A Notice of Intent was published in the *Federal Register* on April 7, 2008 and the planning process began informally in August 2008 at an initial strategy meeting between the refuge staff and regional office staff. One major outcome of that first meeting was a timetable for accomplishing the major steps in the planning process and determining when and how we should involve others.

August 13, 2008: Letters were sent out to invite representatives from the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah), Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, and Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game (MADFG) to participate on the planning team. Invitations to participate in the planning team are also extended to Service staff from the Division of Migratory Birds and Ecological Services.

September 2, 2008: The core planning team, consisting of refuge and regional staff from Ecological Services and a representative from MADFG, met at the complex headquarters in Sudbury, MA. We drafted a vision statement, goals, and objectives, identified preliminary issues, determined what additional resource information we needed to collect and summarize, and discussed what other experts we should consult to help us address planning issues. We also scheduled our partner and public scoping meetings.

- September 2008:** We distributed a 1-page newsletter to approximately 40 people, organizations, and agencies to formally announce the beginning of the planning process and the upcoming public meeting in October, and sent out press releases to the Nantucket Independent and the Nantucket Inquirer and Mirror to announce the public meeting. Invitation letters were sent out to 17 people representing 15 local, State, and national agencies and organizations of potential interest to the upcoming partner meeting in October.
- October 15, 2008:** We hosted both the partner and public meetings at the Nantucket Town Annex Building, having published notices about the public meeting in two local newspapers, the newsletter, and via TTOR Web site. Nineteen people representing nine organizations were in attendance at the partner meeting, and 28 people signed in at the public meeting.
- At each meeting the draft vision, goals, and objectives were posted around the room, as well as the preliminary issues identified by the core planning team. A summary of the planning process was presented, and attendees were encouraged to provide feedback on any of the presented items, or general concerns or issues they have about the refuge. Comment forms were provided, and staff recorded comments on flip charts. Members of the public were notified that there is a one-month comment period, closing on November 17, 2008.
- December 9, 2008:** The core planning team met again at the Complex headquarters in Sudbury, MA to identify key issues and develop the strategies and alternatives for the document.
- January 2009–June 2010:** We wrote the first five chapters, acronyms/glossary, bibliography, and eight appendices of the CCP and prepared them for internal review.
- January–February 2011:** The draft CCP /EA was approved by the regional solicitor, and the Notice of Availability (NOA) was sent to the Washington Office for approval and publication in the *Federal Register*.

Partners Involved in Refuge Planning

Refuge programs enjoy a great deal of support from outside the Service in many arenas: conducting biological surveys, enhancing public use and refuge programs, restoring habitat, and protecting land. Our partnerships will continue to expand with the increasing interest in conserving refuge resources. During the past year, we contacted the following organizations to apprise them of the planning process and encourage their involvement.

- Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah): Bettina Washington, Jonathon Perry, Elizabeth Perry, Mark Andrews
- Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe: Chuckie Green, Quon Tobey

- U.S. Coast Guard
- Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game, Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (MassWildlife): Jason Zimmer, Steve Hurley
- The Trustees of Reservations: Chris Kennedy, Steve Nicolle, Diane Lang, Scott White, Franz Inglefinger
- Nantucket Conservation Foundation: Jim Lentowski
- Town of Nantucket: Dirk Roggeveen
- Maria Mitchell Association: Janet Schulte, Bob Kennedy
- Nantucket Anglers Club: Quint Waters, Doug Seholm, Jr., Josh Eldridge
- Massachusetts Audubon Society: Ernie Steinauer, Becky Harris, Ellen Jedrey
- Nantucket Civic League: Pamela Lohmann
- Nantucket Land Council, Inc.: Emily McKinnon
- Nantucket Hunting Association
- Massachusetts Historical Commission
- National Marine Fisheries Service
- Nantucket Land Bank
- Egan Maritime Foundation

Contact Information

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Planning Team

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Carl Melberg	<i>Regional Natural Resource Planner</i> , Planning Team Leader, USFWS Refuge System
Stephanie Koch	<i>Refuge Complex Wildlife Biologist</i> , Eastern Massachusetts NWR Complex

	Eileen McGourty	<i>Refuge Complex Fish and Wildlife Biologist, Eastern Massachusetts NWR Complex</i>
	Susan J. Russo	<i>Refuge Complex Visitor Services Specialist, Eastern Massachusetts NWR Complex</i>
	Brian Willard	<i>Refuge Complex Law Enforcement, Eastern Massachusetts NWR Complex</i>
	Susi von Oettingen	<i>Wildlife Biologist, USFWS Ecological Services New England Field Office</i>
	Shelley Small	<i>Cultural Resources Specialist, USFWS Refuge System</i>
	Jan Taylor	<i>Regional Biologist, USFWS Refuge System</i>
	D.J. Monette	<i>Native American Liaison, USFWS Refuge System</i>
	Bettina Washington	<i>Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah)</i>
	Chuckie Green	<i>Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe</i>
	Jason Zimmer	<i>District Manager, MassWildlife</i>
	Steve Hurley	<i>District Fisheries Manager, MassWildlife</i>
Other Service Program Involvement	Nancy McGarigal	<i>Regional Natural Resource Planner, USFWS Refuge System</i>
	Rick Schaufli	<i>Biologist/GIS Specialist, USFWS Refuge System</i>
	Michael Amaral	<i>Assistant Supervisor, USFWS New England Field Office</i>
	Scott Johnston	<i>Non-game Migratory Bird Coordinator, USFWS Division of Migratory Birds</i>
	Randy Dettmers	<i>Migratory Bird Biologist, USFWS Division of Migratory Birds</i>
	Rick Jorgensen	<i>Senior Realty Specialist, Division of Realty, USFWS Refuge System</i>
	Rick Vollick	<i>New England Fire Management Officer and Fire Planner, USFWS Refuge System</i>
	Peggy Hobbs	<i>Administrative Officer, Eastern Massachusetts NWR Complex</i>
	Chris Kelly	<i>Refuge Complex Law Enforcement, Eastern Massachusetts NWR Complex</i>
	Elizabeth Wunker	<i>Biological Technician, Eastern Massachusetts NWR Complex</i>
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Assistance from Others	Scott Melvin	<i>Biologist, MA Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program</i>
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	List of Preparers	<u>Terwilliger Consulting, Inc.</u>
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Karen Terwilliger		<i>President and Natural Resource Consultant</i>